



Lord Cardwell at the War Office: A History of His Administration, 1868 1874 (Classic Reprint)

Robert Biddulph Sir

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Excerpt from Lord Cardwell at the War Office: A History of His Administration, 1868 1874

The object of this book is to place on record the history of Lord Cardwell's administration of the War Office from December 1868 to February 1874.

It will probably come as a surprise to the reader to learn that before he received the Seals of office, Lord Cardwell had made a careful study of the military problems that had been occupying public attention since the Crimean War, and had written a paper in which he reviewed the principal questions of army reform which would inevitably present themselves. The paper was prepared, in December 1868, to bring his general view before Mr Gladstone and other colleagues, but it shows that the subject had been thought out before there was any prospect of the writer becoming responsible for the War Department.

During the Crimean War he had been pressed by Lord Palmerston to undertake (but had declined), the duties of the Exchequer, and in 1858-59 he had taken a leading part on the Commission for manning the Navy. Thus, his attention had been called perforce to the gravity of the question of War Finance, and to the arduous problem of providing in peace for recruits on any outbreak of war. But these were only two aspects of the more general question of reorganizing national defence.

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